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AN

# ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC

ON THE ADVANTAGES OF

# *VACCINE INOCULATION:*

WITH THE

# OBJECTIONS TO IT REFUTED.

By HENRY JENNER, Surgeon, F. L. S. *&c.*

"———————— 'Tis evidence so full—
If the last Trumpet sounded in my ear,
Undaunted I should meet the Saints half way,
And in the face of Heav'n maintain the fact."

DRYDEN.

Bristol:

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# ADDRESS.

I trust that the importance of the subject will be a sufficient apology for making this (I hope my final) Appeal to the Candour and good Sense of the Public. Confident of the strength of the foundation on which I stand, I fear not the blasts of baseless detraction. Conscious of no motives which an honeſt and a feeling mind would bluſh to avow, I would wish seriously to impress the importance of VACCINE INOCULATION.

I shall commence, according to the mode adopted by Dr. JENNER, by fairly stating, in the way of comparison, the peculiar differences which mark the Small-Pox and Cow-Pox; at the same time premising, that I can with the utmoſt confidence affirm, that the statement is in every particular confirmed by very extensive experience.

## SMALL-POX,

VERY frequently calls latent diseases into action; in these are included the various species of Scrofula.

Is contagious and communicable by effluvia.

Cannot be communicated with safety to children when cutting teeth.

In sickening with the Small-Pox, children are *frequently* afflicted with alarming fits; and when their constitutions are delicate, they suffer materially in their health during life.

Is oftentimes fatal.

Is attended with Eruptions, and very often disfigures the Countenance.

## COW-POX,

WE may safely conclude, from a long and careful observation of this disease, as communicated from the Cow, and from no limited experience in its Inoculation, that it excites no disposition to other complaints. It is a pure disease, proceeding from the healthiest and the most cleanly of all animals, the Heifer.—The Scrofula cannot be generated, as that animal is never affected by it.

Numerous experiments testify, that this never happens in the Cow-Pox.

This circumstance forms no objection to inoculate with Vaccine Matter.—Numerous experiments justify the assertion.

Nothing of this kind has ever appeared in this disease; and the constitutions of children have been improved by its communication.

No instance of the kind has ever happened.

In this disease (even in the natural way) I never observed any pustules.

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| Persons afflicted with this disease cannot mingle with those, who have never been affected by it. | This objection does not apply to the Cow-Pox, as it is neither contagious, nor communicable by effluvia. |
| Medicines are necessary to be administered. | Here no medicines are required. |
| Notwithstanding the present improved state of Inoculation, parents and friends must feel a considerable degree of anxiety for the safety of relatives, &c. | Little anxiety can be felt in this disorder, as it is never attended with the least danger. |
| Requires a Nurse. | This disease does not. |

The above comparison of the advantages which are to be derived from the substitution of the Vaccine Disease for the Small-Pox, is founded upon principles which experience has proved to be fixed upon the solid basis of truth. I am certainly entitled to speak with confidence on the subject; as, in conjunction with my uncle, Dr. JENNER (who, with indefatigable industry, has completely investigated the nature of Cow-Pox), I have had a very extensive acquaintance in this part, of medical practice; but prejudice and illiberality will

ever be on the watch to stop the progress of improvement, and to overturn the edifice of well-earned fame. The history of the advancement of Science exhibits this truth in every page, but the same detail will inform us that succeeding ages have never failed to place in its proper nook, in the Temple of Fame, the discoverer of any thing beneficial to human kind. Ignorant as we are what place may be consigned to Dr. JENNER by the present age, he may confidently appeal, by the justice of his claims, to unprejudiced, impartial posterity.

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It is perfectly consistent with my present design, briefly to notice the most popular objections which have been urged against the introduction of Cow-Pox.

It has been called a bestial humour, and by a fallacious association of ideas, it is supposed to introduce an *unnatural* disease into the constitution.

If this very weak and futile objection were worthy of reply, we might observe, that the Cow is of all others the most

healthy and the most cleanly of our domestic animals, and might also remark, that no females are so healthy as our dairy maids, whose morning and evening hours are spent amongst the cows; and we should not forget that the most eminent Physicians recommend invalids to avail themselves of the salubrious effects of the breath of the Heifer. How void of foundation then must be the objection to the insertion of an atom of matter taken from the teat of the cow, once in the life only, when every person is in the daily habit of introducing into his stomach various parts of the same animal. The human stomach revolts not at beef, butter, cheese; and cream, yet every one, acquainted with the animal economy, must know, that these aliments are quickly mingled with the constitution.

It may not be irrelevant to remark, that cheese, which constitutes so considerable a part of human food, may very frequently contain a sufficient quantity of vaccine matter for the inoculation of thousands.

Nor may it, perhaps, be too hypothetical to suppose, that the Cow-Pox may possibly be the Small-Pox in its original unadulterated state, before it became contaminated by passing through the impure and scrofulous habits of human constitutions. Is not this idea, in some measure, supported by the fact, that Cow-Pox never excites Scrofula, for the simple reason, that heifers have never this disease? And may it not appear after Small-Pox, as the matter may have passed through diseased habits?

Another grand objection (which indeed is the only one that strikes at the *foundation* of our theory) is, that persons are liable to be affected with Small-Pox after having been inoculated with the Cow-Pox.

A very extensive practice, and an equally extensive communication of the experience of medical friends of the first reputation, would almost warrant a short, abrupt answer to this question; an answer conveyed in terms unaccommodated to the feelings of the present age. After this objection, which

has been refuted as often as it has been urged, a laconic reply, conveyed in no polite language, would by no means be improper, as it would harmonize with the general mode of such objections; and by all laws, the answer ought to be of the colour of the question: But what is not owing to cavilling individuals, is a just debt due to a candid and judicious Public.

Every case that has been brought forward to undermine the theory we defend, we can prove to a demonstration was not one of the *genuine* kind. There are *three* diseases which have indiscriminately been termed Cow-Pox, only *one* of which is the real preventive of Small-Pox. In the Spring season particularly, Cows are frequently sent to market for sale: The farmer omits to milk them in the morning, previous to their setting out, that their udders may appear full, and the animals on that account become more valuable. The frequent consequence is, that inflammation ensues, which terminates in eruptions on the teats and udder, and affects the milker with a loathsome disease on the hands, arms, and shoulders. The

forehead sometimes does not escape, from the circumstance of the servant's leaning against the udder in milking. This disease may affect the same person several times, but it will *never* prove a preventive for Small-Pox: A case of this kind occurs in the city of Bristol. A Mr. JACOBS, attorney at law, was extensively affected *twice* with this disease (which, from his total ignorance of *real* Cow-Pox, he has called by that name), but it did not prevent his being afflicted with a subsequent severe Small-Pox.

Much stress has been laid on this case of Mr. JACOBS, as militating against the validity of the arguments adduced in support of the superior claim of the Vaccine Inoculation over the Variolous. Were fifty such cases to arise, they could make no impression on the minds of those who have studied the nature of the Cow-Pox. For the satisfaction of those who have not, I will explain the nature of these cases. But which evidence are we to look upon as the true one? That which Mr. JACOBS laid before Dr. SIMS in London, and was afterwards published by that Gentleman in the first Number of the

" *Medical and Physical Journal;*" or that which he gave to Dr. BEDDOES, and which was published in his " *Contributions* " *to Physical and Medical Knowledge?*" For be it known, these evidences differ most essentially.* However, as it may be more accommodating to thofe who live in the neighbourhood of Bristol, I will take the latter. He tells us, that the disease shewed itself by producing pustules on every finger, but that he does not recollect their producing any indisposition or fever; consequently, including the thumbs, Mr. JACOBS had at least twenty Cow-pock sores. Now I appeal to any of my medical neighbours in the Vale of Glocester, whether a person who had had the tenth part of the number of true Cow-pock sores on such irritable parts as the fingers, would not have felt so much indisposition as never to have forsaken his recollection of it?

* In the extract of the letter published by Dr. SIMS, it is stated, that he (meaning Mr. JACOBS) " describes the Cow-Pox as the most loathsome of diseases, and adds, that his right arm was in " a state of eruption, *both the first and second time*, from one extremity to the other."—But in his answer to Dr. BEDDOES's query, he mentions the *second* infection to have been slight.

This case may be supposed to have received some additional weight by the comment of Dr. BEDDOES at the conclusion of the dialogue. But it is very probable that at that time Dr. BEDDOES had never seen the Cow-Pox in *any* form, otherwise he would not have risked such an opinion. In short, the case of Mr. JACOBS very clearly appears to be one of those which Dr. JENNER has defined to be a *spurious* Cow-Pox, that is, one not capable of producing any specific change in the constitution, but leaving it as susceptible of the Small-Pox as after any other common eruption.

I hope therefore it will not be expected I should come forward to prove *again* to the public, that every such case of eruptive disorder, improperly called Cow-Pox (because it arises from a disease on the Cow's udder, which has been, and always may be, succeeded by Small-Pox), is actually of the spurious kind, and has no more to do with Small-Pox than the Hooping-Cough or Measles. But it is certainly the *duty* of those persons who bring forward such spurious cases for the true and genuine Cow-Pox, fully to investigate and give a

minute description of every particular symptom, with which such disease is attended, to medical practitioners conversant with the disorders in question, and suffer *them* first to determine whether it be the true or the spurious kind, before they attempt to prejudice the public mind by giving an absolute determination of their own.

Every case of my *own* inoculation for Cow-Pox, and of every *genuine* natural case I shall have mentioned to be such, I do here assert, and will answer for the result of it, that it shall withstand every effort that can be devised, either by inoculation or otherwise, to introduce the contagion or infection of the Small-Pox into the system, at all ages and at any distant period from their having had the Cow-Pox. But as the spurious disease frequently shews an exact similarity in many of its appearances to the true species, it will require the discrimination of the exercised practitioner to distinguish one disease from the other, so that I can only ensure *my own* cases, or those cases inoculated with the vaccine matter *immediately* from myself; and I beg leave to ask the parents and relatives

of those patients inoculated by me, whether every thing I have herein stated respecting the Cow-Pox, as far as they are capable of judging, be not strictly true?

The other sort of spurious Vaccine Disease is occasioned by flies of a particular species biting or stinging the teats of the Heifer; but this has no effect in preventing the attack of Small-Pox.

The third, or genuine Cow-Pox, affects the teats of the animal generally in the spring. It is conveyed by the milker from Cow to Cow, until the whole stock becomes infected, together with the milkers themselves: a wound or two appears on the hands, which swell considerably; the glands under the arms become enlarged, and the constitution is sensibly affected, unless the patient has previously gone through the Small-Pox, in which case it proves very mild.

After a person has had this disease or *true* Cow-Pox, he will never afterwards be liable to receive the infection of Small-

Pox, either by contagion or inoculation, as I have before stated. And as I have produced a case of the spurious Cow-Pox which occurred in Bristol, I shall here introduce one of the *genuine* kind, which may be referred to in the same city, and will as clearly demonstrate the existence of the same complaint, as Mr. JACOBS's case does that of the other.

Mr. JOHN STINCHCOMBE, broker, St. James's-back, was infected with the Cow-Pox, about thirty years ago, by milking at Mr. COXE's Farm at Stone, near Berkeley. He had one pustule on each thumb, with some degree of soreness and swelling of the glands under the arms; but upon the whole the disease proved milder than the natural Cow-pox generally does. Since that period he has resided many years in Bristol, and has lost four children in the natural Small-Pox, all of whom he attended and *slept* with during their illness. He was never inoculated for the Small-Pox, being fully assured that the Cow-Pox had sufficiently shielded his constitution against the influence of that disease.

A case also occurs in the town of Berkeley, where nearly *sixty* years have elapsed since the person had the Vaccine Disease, but he cannot be infected with Small-Pox. The person in question (Mr. JOHN PHILLIPS, barber) is now healthy, and will, if required, readily appear to verify my assertions, and give any person the liberty of infecting him with the Small-Pox, if he possibly can: but he has already thoroughly stood the test, both by frequent inoculations and exposure to variolous effluvia.

Another person, in the parish of Berkeley, who for many years past has been in the habit of nursing Small-Pox patients, and washing their linen, had the Cow-Pox more than *thirty* years ago; and although I have several times inoculated her, and she has been so frequently exposed to Small-Pox contagion, yet she has always resisted its infection.

Were it necessary, I could produce "Volumes of Evidences "and Clouds of Witnesses" to prove the truth of the facts which I have adduced. I could refer the Public to Medical

Gentlemen of the first character and highest eminence in their profession, whose repeated experiments corroborate my assertions respecting the peculiar properties of the Vaccine Disease. But waving this reference for the present, I cannot avoid observing that I should consider myself as the grand enemy of Society if I were to recommend the general introduction of a practice, if experience, the test of theory, and the only sure guide of conduct, did not fully warrant its highest recommendation. Nay, in what light should I consider myself as a professional man, and I trust an honest member of Society, if I were to enforce a practice which involves in itself the dearest interests of Society, which comprehends in its influence the healths and *lives* of my fellow creatures, if I were not assured of its inevitable safety, and its numerous advantages. These advantages will doubtless be embraced by the serious and reflective. The mind of feeling, anxious for the health and safety of relatives and friends, will pause and consider before the Small-Pox be admitted, while so mild and so efficacious a substitute is offered. The imminent danger, the disfigured skin, the subsequent scrofula

of the one will be contrasted with the unmarked countenance and the perfect safety of the other. But if prejudice should still continue to operate on the general mind, I am confident a time will come when those who have neglected to take advantage of the present opportunity will lament their conduct, and possibly lament it with unavailing sorrow---For sorrow must be unavailable for breathless friends, nor can a fruitless recollection soothe the miseries of continual disease.

Conscious as I equally am of the purity of my intentions, and of the truth of my assertions, I leave these remarks with the candid judgment of the Public, to whom I would recommend this concluding observation, that if by a good-natured stretch of its opinion, the illiberality of my opposers may be overlooked, their ignorance cannot be unnoticed; for I must be bold enough to affirm, that not one case of *genuine* Cow-Pox has ever come under their inspection.

HENRY JENNER.

BERKELEY, *Glocestershire*,
*DECEMBER* 26, 1799.

## POSTSCRIPT.

To give the poor, and persons of indigent circumstances, the opportunity of escaping the Small-Pox, and of reaping the benefit of this discovery in common with other persons, I will with pleasure inoculate, *gratis*, for the Vaccine Disease, any such families, or individuals, who shall come forward with a proper recommendation from any reputable person.

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